

14. Piccadilly.
Bradford.

13th April 1923

Dear Miss Kitching

I return the original
1 agreement for purchase
2 of Scale House & the print
copy of conveyance to
Miss Mason. These should
be placed in the envelope
with the other documents
relating to the purchase
of the house.

I owe thanks to
Miss Parish & yourself
for making a business
visit so pleasant.

With kind regards
Yours sincerely

Wm. V. Gordon
Registrar
House of Education
Ambleside

23 p1cnc86

TELEGRAMS: "LEX, BRADFORD"

TELEPHONE: N° 1874-1075

GORDON, HUNTER & DUNCAN
SOLICITORS.

W. B. GORDON (NOTARY PUBLIC)
F. T. HUNTER
H. H. DUNCAN (NOTARY PUBLIC)
N. M. QUEEN
J. H. BUTCLIFFE

11, Piccadilly,
Bradford.

17th April, 1923.

Dear Miss Kitching,

2 —————
I enclose copy of a letter and
Account I have received from Messrs Kegan Paul & Co.
in reply to a letter I wrote to them. The only
Agreements that I have got, among the papers which you
handed to me, are the following :-

1. March 1904 in relation to the series of five Volumes:—

Home Education.
Parents and Children.
Essays in Practical Education
School Education
Ourselves our Souls and Bodies (A
Treatise on Self Training for young People)

2. October 1907 in relation to the Volume entitled "The
Holy Infancy".

Do you know if there were any other
Agreements? It is possible there might be some among the
documents which I left behind me when I went through the
papers.

Perhaps you would be good enough, when

213p2cmcl6

you have the opportunity to show the enclosed letter
to Mr Lewis.

Yours sincerely,

EO-Vs. Gordon

Miss Kitching,
House of Education,
AMBLESIDE.

i14cmc86

TELEGRAMS "LEX, BRADFORD"

TELEPHONE NOS 1874-1875

GORDON, HUNTER & DUNCAN.

SOLICITORS.

W B GORDON (NOTARY PUBLIC)
F T HURTER
H N DUNCAN (NOTARY PUBLIC)
N McQUEEN
J H SUTCLIFFE

14, Piccadilly,
Bradford.

23rd April 1923

Dear Miss Kitching,

Miss Mason, deceased

I am in receipt of your letter of 21st instant. I have looked amongst the papers in my possession but cannot find the receipt you mention. On his recent visit to Ambleside, Mr. Gordon took all the accounts and receipts with him and left them with Messrs. Peat & Son. Mr. Gordon, who is now dealing with this matter, is away from the office to-day but on his return I will ask him if he recollects the particular receipt you mention.

Yours faithfully,

H. M. C. Duncanson.

Miss E. Kitching,

House of Education,

Ambleside,

Westmoreland.

215 cmc86

TELEGRAMS "LEY, BRADFORD"

TELEPHONE NH 1074-1075

GORDON, HUNTER & DUNCAN,
SOLICITORS.

W.B. GORDON (NOTARY PUBLIC)
F.T. HUNTER
H.H. DUNCAN (NOTARY PUBLIC)
N. McQUEEN G.
J.H. SUTCLIFFE

11, Piccadilly,
Bradford.

1st May, 1925.

Dear Miss Kitching,

I have yours of yesterday. The only immediate pressing question seems to be in regard to Miss Mason's new book. I did not know of this. What is the position in regard to it? I am asking Kegan Paul & Co. to value the publications they have in hand. Is there another manuscript which has not yet been dealt with by the Publishers?[?] Of course, no one can deal with any of the assets until the Will has been proved and the Executors have paid the debts, expenses and legacies. It is only after they have done this that the Executors can hand over the then remaining assets to the Trustees, who will then have to consider what they should do in regard to all the literary material.

I have a letter from Miss Parish which is having my careful consideration and to which I shall reply in a day or two.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

W.B. Gordon

Miss Kitching,
House of Education,
AMBLESIDE.

216 cmc 86

TELEGRAMS "LEX BRADFORD"

TELEPHONE NH 1674-1675

GORDON, HUNTER & DUNCAN
SOLICITORS.

W.B. GORDON (NOTARY PUBLIC)
F.T. HUNTER
H.M. DUNCAN (NOTARY PUBLIC)
N. McQUEEN
J.H. SUTCLIFFE

11, Piccadilly,
Bradford.

7th May 1923

Dear Miss Kitching

I see one of the numbers of the P. R. which you were good enough to give me when I was at Scale House is marked "not to be taken away". As the number of copies is ~~no~~ doubt limited & you will need all you can get, I return the two, with many thanks for the loan. I have read them with great interest.

I have sent the accounts for probate to Mr. Lewis for signature & suggested he should shew them to you. I shall be glad of any comments - as to errors, omissions &c. you may have to make.

Yours sincerely
Wm B. Gordon

House of Education
Amble-side

217 June 86

TELEGRAMS "LEX, BRADFORD"

TELEPHONE NOS 1674-1675

GORDON, HUNTER & DUNCAN.

SOLICITORS.

W.B. GORDON (NOTARY PUBLIC)
F.T. HUNTER
H.H. DUNCAN (NOTARY PUBLIC)
N. McQUEEN
J.H. SUTCLIFFE

17, Piccadilly
Bradford.

10th May 1923

Dear Miss Kitching.

I have your letter of 7th.

You are, however, under a misapprehension.

The mortgage debts are deducted from the estate on which duty is payable. The net amount on which duty will

have to be paid is £5614, 19.9, and the rate of duty will be 4%. There is therefore no danger of bankruptcy!

I will reply to the rest of your letter in the course of the next day or two.

Yours faithfully

W.B. Gordon

House of Education,
Ambleside.

28plcmc86

TELEGRAMS "LEX, BRADFORD"

TELEPHONE NO 1674-1675

GORDON, HUNTER & DUNCAN.
SOLICITORS.

W.B. GORDON (NOTARY PUBLIC)
F.T. HUNTER
H.H. DUNCAN (NOTARY PUBLIC)
N. MIQUEEN
J.H. SUTCLIFFE G.

11, Piccadilly,
Bradford.

11th May, 1923.

Dear Miss Kitching,

In further reference to your letter of 7th:- It is a little difficult to answer your difficulties in regard to the Ledgers etc. until the Will is proved and we know the exact position rather more clearly. The next week or ten days should see the Executors in a position to make effectual arrangements for handing over the Estate to the Trustees. One of the difficulties we have to meet is, that the Executors cannot part with the Estate until they are released from responsibilities in connection with the Mortgages on the properties. At present the whole of Miss Mason's estate is liable to be called upon for payment of the mortgage moneys. Until it is released from this responsibility the legacies cannot be paid, and till the legacies are paid the remainder of the estate cannot be handed over to the Trustees. How do the Trustees propose to deal with this difficulty? Are they willing to assume personal responsibility for the mortgage moneys, and are the Mortgagees willing to accept their

218p2emc86

responsibility in lieu of that of the Executors? I
mention this difficulty now, as you may be having a Meeting
of Trustees at which you could put the question forward.

Yours sincerely,

Wm. B. Gordon

Miss Kitching,
House of Education,
AMBLESIDE.

Please Return

X19plomc86

TELEGRAMS - "LEX, BRADFORD"

TELEPHONE NOS 1674 - 1675

GORDON, HUNTER & DUNCAN
SOLICITORS.

W.B. GORDON (NOTARY PUBLIC)
F.T. HUNTER
H.W. DUNCAN (NOTARY PUBLIC)
N. McQUEEN
J.H. SUTCLIFFE G.

14, Piccadilly,
Bradford.

14th May, 1923.

Dear Miss Kitching,

MISS MASON, DECEASED.

I return the Notice of Assessment of Land.

I think it would be as well in the first instance to let Mr. Aitchison deal with all these assessments, as he knows the Local conditions and the values, and also he knows the ropes so far as the Assessment Committee are concerned. *I shall of course be glad to help in any way he wants.*

As regards the Mortgage, - I have been giving this question further consideration. The outgoings which we as Executors will have, will be mainly duties and expenses. The duties will be heavy, as all the beneficiaries are strangers in blood and 10% will have to be paid on the legacies and the residue. I estimate that duties and expenses will swallow up something like £1000. In addition cash will be required to pay the pecuniary legacies, which for present purposes we might estimate at about £200 in all. The cash outgoings will therefore be about £1,200. The cash in the Bank and the cash to be received from the Annuity Company will

be about £3536, and there will therefore be a balance of cash to hand over to the Trustees as residuary legatees of about £2336 as well as the War Stock valued at £105, making £2441 in all. The amount of the Mortgages is £2800. If the Trustees would agree that the available cash shall be used in paying off or reducing the mortgages, we ought to have no difficulty in making some arrangements with the Mortgagees, which would not involve any personal responsibility on their part. *Trustees'* In fact, only £350 more than the available cash would be required to pay off the mortgages altogether, and the Trustees might think it desirable to raise this little deficiency and get rid of the mortgages. The figures I have given are more or less estimates only and I hope things will turn out a little better than I have said. I think it would be a good thing however, if the Trustees were at an early date to consider the matter from this point of view and decide what they would wish to be done.

I enclose your list of School Staff and servants. I shall have to give the full name of each. Could you kindly give me all these names? _____

_____ As regards the two ladies who are mentioned as being "on new staff, January 1923", If they were engaged and had entered upon their duties before Miss Mason's death I

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think we shall have to treat them as being on the Staff at that date.

As regards the day workers.- Were these in Miss Mason's exclusive employment, or did they only come to her on certain days or parts of days? If the latter, then I hardly think they can be described as servants in her employ?

Yours sincerely,

W. W. Gordon

Miss Kitching,

House of Education,

AMBLESIDE.

120plcmc86

TELEGRAMS: "LEX, BRADFORD"

TELEPHONE: N.Y. 1874-1075

GORDON, HUNTER & DUNCAN,

SOLICITORS.

W. B. GORDON (NOTARY PUBLIC)
F. T. HUNTER
H. H. DUNCAN (NOTARY PUBLIC)
N. McQUEEN G.
J. H. SUTCLIFFE

17, Piccadilly,
Bradford.

17th May, 1923.

Dear Miss Kitching,

Thanks for the particulars of legatees.
you do not say whether Mademoiselle Molmy and Miss Bell
were engaged and began their duties before Miss Mason's death.
Were they engaged by written Agreement? If so, could you
let me see this?

I have your letter of 15th. I don't
think the Trustees need trouble about the question of handing
over the property to the Union. They have no power to do so,
but are bound to see that the business is carried on ^{according to} the
terms of the Will. I feel sure that the proper course for
the Executors to adopt will be to apply any surplus moneys,
after payment of the duties, expenses and legacies, in paying
off or reducing the Mortgages.

As regards the publication to which you
refer, this will be entirely a matter for the Trustees, and
they should consider whether, and how far they are justified
in running any risk or loss on the publication. Moreover,

isop2emc86

I doubt whether they are justified in publishing anything except what Miss Mason has herself written. So drastic an alteration as you suggest would appear to be converting the manuscript, from a work of Miss Mason's to being the work of the Trustees themselves which they have no authority to publish at the expense of the estate.

Yours sincerely,

Wm. B. Gordon

Miss Kitching,
House of Education,
AMBLESIDE.

251cmC86

TELEGRAMS: "LEX, BRADFORD"

TELEPHONE NW 1674-1675

GORDON, HUNTER & DUNCAN

SOLICITORS

W.B. GORDON (NOTARY PUBLIC)
F.T. HUNTER
H.W. DUNCAN (NOTARY PUBLIC)
N. McQUEEN C.
J.H. SUTCLIFFE

25, Piccadilly,
Bradford.

24th May, 1925.

Dear Miss Kitching,

I have your letter of 17th and am glad to note what you say. It seems to me to be quite sound. The Trustees ought however to limit the amount which they get in hand to as low a figure as possible, as it is no use their paying heavy interests on the mortgage and only receiving a small rate of interest from the Bank.

I hope I shall hear from you shortly as to Mademoiselle Molmy and Miss Bell.

Yours faithfully,

Wm J. Wm.

Miss Kitching,
House of Education,
AMBLESIDE.

Will you please state whether Elizabeth Groveham referred to in Clause 3(g) of the will is still living.
Wm J. Wm.

222plcmc86

TELEGRAMS "LEX, BRADFORD"
TELEPHONE NR 1674-1675

GORDON, HUNTER & DUNCAN
SOLICITORS

W.B. GORDON (NOTARY PUBLIC)
F.T. HUNTER
H.H. DUNCAN (NOTARY PUBLIC)
N. McQUEEN
J.H. SUTCLIFFE

G.

14, Piccadilly.
Bradford
7th June, 1923.

Dear Miss Kitching,

I have your letter. The letter to Mr. Costley-White of 12th January was written by my Partner in my absence in America. Hearing from you of Miss Mason's serious illness, and being informed by my clerk that a Codicil had been prepared some time before which had never been carried out, he rightly thought it desirable to give Miss Mason the opportunity of saying whether or not she wished to proceed with that Codicil. It was no use her proceeding with it if the Union had not incorporated the clause suggested by me in their Memorandum of Association. His first step, therefore, was to ascertain if that clause had been so inserted. Before writing for the information he wrote Miss Mason, asking her permission to communicate with Mr. Costley-White. You conveyed this permission to him. Whether Miss Mason would, or would not, have completed the Codicil, it is impossible to say. She had had the draft Codicil in hand for eight months, and had made no wish sign of any wish to proceed with it. Having had many indications from her of her determination that, so far as she could, she would retain the control during her lifetime, and would so arrange that after her death the control would be in the hands of Miss Williams until she left, and afterwards to Miss Parish, I purposely refrained from worrying her on the

subject; and, if I were asked to say what she would have done if she ~~were~~ ^{had been} well enough to consider the matter again in January last, I would be at an entire loss to give an answer. But, however this may be, the fact remains that the Codicil was never executed, and that the Will stands, and must be carried out. The Will specifically directs how the College, etc. are to be carried on, and neither the Trustees nor the Council can delegate their powers to the Union or anyone else. Under these circumstances I do not see that there really is any question which can, at the present moment, be discussed with profit; but, if I can see the letters which show what the wishes of the parties are, I should be glad to give them consideration.

I have today received the Probate of the Will, and am proceeding to pass the Accounts for Legacy Duties. I am also sending the Probate to the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada with the view to obtaining payment from them of the £1,039-1-5 due from them. When this is done, I shall send the Probate to the Bank in Ambleside with a view to adjusting matters there. It should then be possible to pay the legacies and to take the necessary steps to hand over the residue to the Trustees. I would suggest that it is desirable that the Trustees should meet within the next 10 or 14 days to receive a report from the Executors of the position and to decide ^{how they} ~~who~~ should conduct their business. When such a meeting is arranged, the Executors should have a preliminary meeting (no doubt on the same day and at the same place) to go into matters and settle the terms of their

3.

report. If you agree, and think it desirable to arrange this, I should be glad to attend a meeting either in Ambleside, or in London, or in some convenient intermediate place.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Lewis, and you will no doubt discuss it with him. I am also sending a copy to Mrs. Franklin, together with a letter of which I enclose a copy.

Yours sincerely,

Wm. B. Gordon

Miss Kitching,
House of Education,
Ambleside,
WESTMORELAND.

Enclos:1.

Copy.

G.

7th. June, 1923.

Dear Mrs. Franklin,

Miss Mason, deceased.

I have a letter from Miss Kitching from which it appears that there is some question as to what Miss Mason's intentions were in connection with the suggestion that after her death (or even before it) the House of Education, the Parent's Union School etc. should be handed over to the P. N. E. U. I have therefore, written Miss. Kitching a letter of which I enclose a copy. I, of course, do not know what the real question at issue is, but I thought it better to tell Miss. Kitching as accurately as possible what the actual situation is, both in fact and law. I trust it will be possible for the Executors and Trustees to meet as suggested in the letter.

I am,

Yours truly,

(signed) W. B. Gordon.

The Hon. Mrs. Franklin

24picmc86

TELEGRAMS "LEX BRADFORD"

TELEPHONE NW 1874-1875

GORDON, HUNTER & DUNCAN
SOLICITORS.

W.B. GORDON (NOTARY PUBLIC)
F.T. HUNTER
H.H. DUNCAN (NOTARY PUBLIC)
N. MIQUEEN
J.H. BUTCLIFFE G.

11, Piccadilly,
Bradford.

11th June, 1925.

Dear Miss Kitching,

I am much obliged for the bundle of correspondence, which I now return.

At the same time I enclose a copy of a letter I have written to Mrs Franklin in reply to hers. You will see that she considers that Clause 15 of the Will empowers the Trustees to hand over to the P. N. E. U., and that I don't agree with this view. At the same time I am bound to say that, if the Trustees unanimously decided that transfer to the P. N. E. U. was desirable, I think we could probably at small cost ^{get} an Order of the Court which would sanction the handing over. If the Trustees are not unanimous, then any such action is in my opinion impossible.

I shall be glad to arrange to be with you for a Conference on 4th and 5th July. Before that date I hope we shall get all the Inland Revenue Accounts passed and duties, legacies and expenses paid, so that the ^{Executors} ~~Trustees~~ can place the Trustees in entire possession of the estate. I don't think you need trouble Mr Foster of Messrs. Peat's at

124p2emc86

present, though I think we shall have to ask him to adjust
the accounts before the Meeting of 4th July.

Yours sincerely,

Wm. Gordon

Miss Kitching,

The House of Education,

Ambleside.

COPY.

G.

11th June, 1928.

Dear Mrs Franklin,

I am much obliged for your letter of the 8th and enclosures. I return the copy correspondence enclosed. You are no doubt aware that as long ago as 1905 Miss Mason first consulted me about forming a Trust to carry on the College etc. I then consulted Counsel who was an expert on such matters and was advised by him that it was so difficult as to be almost impossible to do what Miss Mason wanted by means of a Trust Deed. Miss Mason then declined to consider the idea of a Company. In 1911 Miss Mason brought the subject up again for consideration and Counsel then confirmed the views before expressed. As Miss Mason was at that time anxious to make some arrangements to carry on the College permanently, I got Counsel to prepare all the papers necessary for the formation of an incorporated Company. These papers were very fully considered by Miss Mason and altered as far as possible to meet her wishes. She, however, finally decided against forming a Company, partly because she wanted to retain the control in the hands of herself and any who should succeed her as principals, and partly because she did not like the

publicity.

Miss Mason then decided to deal with the future management of the College by laying down a Scheme in her Will. The whole question was again laid before Counsel and he drafted a Will on the lines of that which has now been proved.

In 1919 Miss Mason reverted to the subject of incorporation once more, but on re-consideration again abandoned the idea. In consequence, however, of Miss Williams' retirement, or projected retirement, the Will was altered in certain details and re-executed in April 1919. I have already explained what took place in regard to the Codicil which I drafted in May 1921, but which Miss Mason never executed. In view of my knowledge of the many difficulties which presented themselves to her mind in regard to any scheme of carrying on the work otherwise than under the supreme direction of some individual personality, I was not surprised that I did not hear from Miss Mason about this Codicil during many months. It is impossible to say what her thoughts and views on the subject were during that period, or what she would have done if she had lived longer.

The fact which the Executors, Trustees and Council have all now to face is that the Will is therewithout the Codicil and that it is the Will that must entirely govern the situation. It is true that Clause 15 authorises the formation of a Company for the specific purpose of carrying on the College etc. I do not think that (unless under the directions of the Court) the

Trustees are entitled under this Clause to hand over the College to ^{-a-} ~~the~~ Company already formed and having other objects besides that of carrying on such work as is done by the College. If I had not held this view of the interpretation of the Clause I would not have thought it necessary to draft a Codicil in May 1921.

After all, as you say, the points to which we should confine ourselves are - in the first instance, - whether there is power to hand the College over to the Union, - and if so, whether it is desirable that this should be done. I would even suggest that the first point for consideration should be that of expediency. If the Trustees consider it desirable to be associated more closely with the P. N. E. U. than they would be under the provisions of the scheme, they should make up their minds in what way they want closer union, and whether they are prepared to go the length of absolutely handing over the Institutions and all responsibilities connected with them to the P. N. E. U. Till they have made up their minds on this question it is difficult to form a final judgment on the legal aspect.

I have written to Miss Kitching telling her that I shall be glad to attend a Meeting in Ambleside on the evening of the 4th July and on the 5th July if desired.

Yours faithfully,

WM. B. GORDON.

The Hon. Mrs Franklin.

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TELEGRAMS - "LEX, BRADFORD"

TELEPHONE N° 1674 - 1675

GORDON, HUNTER & DUNCAN

SOLICITORS.

W B GORDON (NOTARY PUBLIC)
F T HUNTER
H H DUNCAN (NOTARY PUBLIC)
N McQUEEN C.
J H BUTCHIFFE

11, Piccadilly,
Bradford.

14th June, 1925.

Dear Miss Kitching,

Messrs. Kegan Paul & Co. reply that it will be in quite good time if they receive authority to print immediately after the Meeting of the Trustees on 5th prox.

I am glad to ^{hear} ~~say~~ that I shall have the pleasure of meeting Miss Williams when I come over for the Meeting.

The particulars in the Press in regard to the Will are extracted by ~~a~~ Press Agency from the papers in the Probate Office and are not communicated by any one. There is no means of controlling this. The Press Agency extract such particulars as they think fit and consult nobody about it. I see no objection to the printing of the Will or of an extract from it in the Parents' Review. I have had the Will printed in order that a copy may be sent to each member of Council. I enclose six copies for your use. I am sending a print to each member of Council.

Would you kindly let me have the full postal address of Mr. Thomas Barrow in order that I may arrange

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a transfer to him of the War Bonds bequeathed to him.

Would it not be desirable now to sell the \$105 : 5 : 5 of War Stock? Would you mind consulting Mr. Lewis about this and let me know what he thinks? The money will probably be required as working capital for carrying on the "business" or for reduction of the mortgage.

Yours faithfully,

Wm. V. Gordon

Miss Kitching,

The House of Education,

AMBLESIDE.

27p10mc86

TELEGRAMS: "LEX, BRADFORD"
TELEPHONE NOS 1074-1075

GORDON, HUNTER & DUNCAN,
SOLICITORS.

W.B. GORDON, NOTARY PUBLIC;
F.T. HUNTER
H.W. DUNCAN, NOTARY PUBLIC;
N. McQUEEN
J.H. SUTCLIFFE, G.

17, Piccadilly,
Bradford.

15th June, 1925.

Dear Miss Kitching,

It is very difficult to make any accurate statement yet about the financial position. The Weekly Dispatch has of course quoted the gross figures, without deduction of debts and mortgages. This is unfortunate but such things are constantly happening in connection with these Press statements of Probate of Wills. I could make an approximate statement now of the situation, but I don't think it would be wise to do so, as I see I have already blundered in the statement I made in my letter to you of 14th May, in which I omitted to take account of the numerous debts in addition to the mortgages. In fact, the amount available for reduction of the mortgages will not, as far as I can make out, be more than £1000. I am sending the Pass Books which I have received from you this morning to Messrs. Peat asking them to separate the items belonging or chargeable to Miss Mason's estate as on the date of her death, and prepare a statement for adjustment of the Banking Accounts and also to commence the preparation of ^{complete} ~~the correct~~ Executors Account of the whole estate. The Executors Account could not of course be finally completed until we know the amount of the

duties and costs to be paid. I have sent up the Accounts for payment of duty on the legacies and, as soon as these are passed, will also pass the Accounts for duty on the residuum. Meantime, it is as well that you should have something tangible to enable you to dispel the misapprehension created by the Press notice. I am therefore writing you a separate letter which you may wish to show to parties interested.

As regards publishing a statement in the Parents Review, I would suggest that something like the following is all that you can say at present:- "The Estate left by Miss Mason, and which will be available for the purposes of carrying on her work, consists of the residence Seale How Ambleside occupied as ^{the House} ~~a school~~ of Education, ^{and} the house Fairfield Ambleside used for the Practising School, ^{along with} ~~the~~ furniture etc. in these two ^{buildings} ~~and also~~ all Miss Mason's various publications. The remainder of the estate was sufficient for payment of all debts and of the somewhat heavy death duties and expenses, and left a balance which will be available for reduction of the mortgages of the house properties". In the next number of the Review the Trustees may think it desirable to give a more accurate statement of the position.

I sent you six prints of the Will. Might I trouble you to hand a copy to Miss Parish and another to Mr. Lewis. I am sending a copy to each of the other members of Council, including those recently co-opted whose names have been given

127p3cmc86

to me by Mrs Franklin.

Yours faithfully,

Wm W. Gordon

Miss Kitching,

The House of Education,

AMBLESIDE.

228cmc86

TELEGRAMS: "LEX, BRADFORD"

TELEPHONE: N.W. 1074-1075

GORDON, HUNTER & DUNCAN

SOLICITORS

W.B. GORDON (NOTARY PUBLIC)
F.T. HUNTER
H.H. DUNCAN (NOTARY PUBLIC)
N. McQUEEN (T.S.)
J.H. SUTCLIFFE

14, Piccadilly,
Bradford.

15th June, 1925.

Dear Miss Kitching,

I am sorry to see that some of the Press notices of Miss Mason's Will give ~~her~~ a very false impression of the financial position. I see the Weekly Dispatch puts the Estate at £10,057. This is quite misleading. The figure named is approximately the gross value of the estate without making any deductions. As a matter of fact, Seale How and Fairfield are subject to mortgages of considerable amounts, and there will not be sufficient in the residue to pay these off in full. The actual position will be that, after paying the debts, the heavy death duties, the legal expenses and the legacies, the estate left for the purpose of carrying on Miss Mason's work will be only Seale How, Fairfield and the furniture etc. in each of these premises. Even then there will be a substantial amount of mortgage on the two house properties. It is a pity the Press make these statements in the desire to publish tit-bits of information, but I think I should correct at once any false impression such as they create.

Yours faithfully,

W.B. Gordon

Miss Kitching,
The House of Education,
AMBLESIDE.

*I return Mason's Peat's Letter
10/1/26.*

i29 p1 cm 186

TELEGRAMS: "LEX, BRADFORD"

TELEPHONE NO 1674-1675

GORDON, HUNTER & DUNCAN

SOLICITORS

W.B. GORDON (NOTARY PUBLIC)
F.T. HUNTER
H.H. DUNCAN (NOTARY PUBLIC)
N. McQUEEN
J.H. SUTCLIFFE G.

14, Piccadilly
Bradford.

18th June, 1923.

Dear Miss Kitching,

I have your letter of the 15th instant, and agree that it is desirable, if the Will is published, to publish the whole of it, so that people will not get the impression that any substantial part of Miss Mason's estate has been swallowed up in legacies. The War Stock in question is 5% 1929-47. The amount is so small that any difference of a few shillings in the quotation need not be considered. The only question really is, whether the money is likely to be wanted for reduction of the mortgages or whether it will be desired to retain the investment. Perhaps it would be as well to leave this question over for settlement by the Executors and Trustees at the Meeting this next month.

As regards the Assessment. Broadly speaking the general view appears to be that ~~that~~ an increase of 30 to 40 per cent cannot very well be resisted and I don't think Mr. Aitchison has done badly. As you say it will be for the Trustees to consider at their meeting whether any

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further steps should be taken.

Yours faithfully,

W. V. Gordon

Miss Kitching,

The House of Education,

AMBLESIDE.

COPY.

230cme86

18th June, 1923.

Dear Sir,

MISS C. M. MASON, DECEASED.

We are much obliged for yours of 14th instant. The result does not seem to us to be unfavourable except as regards Fairfield. Either this has been rated very low formerly or the increase is excessive. We shall be glad to have your views as to this. Did you give notice of dissatisfaction, so as to enable the Trustees to appeal further if they wish to do so?

Yours faithfully,

GORDON HUNTER & DUNCAN.

G. Aitchison Esq.,
Calgarth Estate Office,
AMBLESIDE.

131 cmc 86

COPY.

Calgarth Estate Office,
AMBLESIDE.

19th June, 1923.

Dear Sirs,

MISS O. M. MASON, DECEASED

In reply to your letter of yesterday's date, the result of the Appeal on Scale How is really more satisfactory than it appears, because the Authorities in this district now make a bigger allowance between the gross and the net rateable value. The old net rateable value of Scale How was £181, and the new net rateable value is only £172 - 10 - 0.

With regard to Fairfield Houses, I did not give notice of dissatisfaction, as I considered that it was useless to do so. In the first place this property, as a Girls' School, is rated per head on exactly the same rate, (within One pound) as at least one other school in this district. In the second place, as you are aware, this property really consists of two houses, and I am sure that if they were to let separately a rental of £95 per year could be obtained for the two.

Yours faithfully,

G. AITCHISON!

Messrs Gordon Hunter & Duncan,
Solicitors,
14 Piccadilly,
BRADFORD.

1320mc86

TELEGRAMS: "LEX, BRADFORD"

TELEPHONE: N.H. 1272-1273

GORDON, HUNTER & DUNCAN.

SOLICITORS.

W.B. GORDON (NOTARY PUBLIC)
F.T. HUNTER
H.H. DUNCAN (NOTARY PUBLIC)
N. McQUEEN
J.H. SUTCLIFFE
G.

11, Piccadilly,
Bradford.

21st June, 1923.

Dear Miss Kitching,

MISS MASON. DECEASED.

In regard to the Assessment question, I enclose a copy of the letter I wrote Mr Aitchison and of his reply. You will probably wish to lay them before the Trustees at their Meeting. In my view the Trustees ought to be well satisfied with the result of Mr. Aitchison's efforts.

I also enclose Accounts and Statement received from Messrs. Kegan Paul & Co. which you will probably require for the purpose of laying it before the Trustees. You will note that it shews a balance of £192 : 12 : 11 owing to the Executors as on 31st March last, and we have asked Messrs. Kegan Paul & Co. to let us have cheque for this, payable to the Executors.

Yours faithfully,

W.B. Gordon

Miss Kitching,

The House of Education,

AMBLESIDE.

233plcmc86

TELEGRAMS: "LEX, BRADFORD"

TELEPHONE: NW 1674-1675

GORDON, HUNTER & DUNCAN

SOLICITORS.

W.B. GORDON (NOTARY PUBLIC)
F.T. HUNTER
H.H. DUNCAN (NOTARY PUBLIC)
N. McQUEEN
J.H. BUTCHIFFE G.

24, Piccadilly,
Bradford.

26th June, 1923.

Dear Miss Kitching,

I have written Mr Lewis fully today about the legacies and the adjustment of the Banking Accounts and he will no doubt be seeing you on the various matters.

I don't want to incur unnecessary expense, but I suggested to Mr. Lewis the possibility that it might be desirable to get Mr Forster of Messrs. Peat's to attend the Executors' and Trustees' Meetings, with a view to giving any information that may be required in regard to the Accounts. Do you think that this is really necessary? Mr. Forster is of course a busy man and we don't want to take up his time needlessly. At the same time the Trustees will want to be fully informed. Perhaps we can tell better whether it is necessary when we get nearer to the time.

Have you fixed any definite arrangements in regard to the Meetings of the Executors and Trustees? When does Mrs Franklin arrive at Ambleside, and when do you propose the business discussions to take place?

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You and Miss Parish are good enough to
offer me the hospitality of Scale How for the night,
but would it not be better for me to put up at the
Salutation Inn? You will all be very busy.

Yours sincerely,

W-B. Gordon

Miss Kitching,

The House of Education,

AMBLESIDE.

234PMC86

TELEGRAMS "LEX. BRADFORD"

TELEPHONE NOS 1674-1675.

GORDON, HUNTER & DUNCAN.
SOLICITORS.

W.B. GORDON (NOTARY PUBLIC)
F.T. HUNTER
H.H. DUNCAN (NOTARY PUBLIC)
N. McQUEEN
J.H. SUTCLIFFE *Q.*

*14, Piccadilly,
Bradford.*

28th June, 1923.

Dear Miss Kitching,

Many thanks for yours of 26th. I shall arrive at Windermere Station at 5.13^{p.m. on Wednesday 4th July} and go straight to the Salutation Inn and be with you for dinner at 7 o'clock. If business can be done in time, and I don't see why it should^{n't}, I shall want to leave at 2.15 p.m. on Thursday, otherwise I shall not be able to get home that evening without taking a 9 mile motor drive from Skipton.

The business which I as Executor will have to do will not take long, but no doubt the Trustees will have many things to discuss after the preliminary business is disposed of.

Yours sincerely,

W.B. Gordon

Thurs 4th July
Miss Kitching,

The House of Education,
AMBLESIDE.